

STEPHEN A. LITTLE

Attorney at Law
HERITAGE OFFICE BUILDING
30 SCHOOL STREET
ROCKLAND, MAINE 04841

TEL. 207-594-5581
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MAY 13 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

STEPHEN A. LITTLE

HARRIS R. BULLERWELL
(1907-1991)

MAILING ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 924, ROCKLAND

May 8, 2003

Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Commissioner Abernathy:

I urge you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

Free speech is one the American people's most endearing freedoms. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen A. Little

SAL/pb

OATES & OATES

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MAY 13 2003

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Robert J. Oates (1928-1998)

James R. Oates

Lisa M. Oates

Attorneys at Law

Law Offices:

MERRILLVILLE

101 West 75th Place
Merrillville IN 46410-5590
Phone (219) 769-6653

May 7, 2003

CHESTERTON

By Appointment Only

The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Commissioner:

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

I am aware that there are proposed changes to the broadcast ownership rules. These rules have worked to protect the American citizens from losing the ability to hear diverse viewpoints from a variety of media providers.

If changes are adopted which allow for the consolidation of media markets in one or two large companies, then the ability to access the media by diverse points of view, some which may be less palatable to the mainstream media, will be lost. The consolidation of power to effect the opinions available for consideration by the public by controlling the media is one way to eliminate the an open forum for the competition of ideas. It smacks of totalitarianism and invites thoughtless acceptance of only those views which are allowed to be presented.

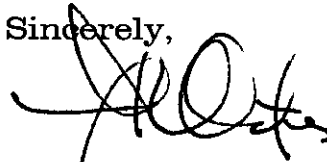
The large media conglomerates have an agenda and a viewpoint. These are not consistent with the American ideals of a free exchange of thought and ideas. Allowing these large conglomerates to shape the view of the public by providing them with the opportunity to present only limited "acceptable" points of view, is the death knell of the goal of free thoughts, free speech, and a free people. Free people, democratic people, do not isolate the power of the media in a few powerful and wealthy corporations. Access to the *PUBLIC AIRWAVES* should remain open and not be dominated by an oligopoly of corporate giants. The epitome of the extreme of this very real threat would be a corporate policy that disallowed advertisements of persons or groups who think a certain way – a way not approved of by the corporation.

Many of the media conglomerates that are now lobbying for these changes have a proven track record of opposing viewpoints off the air. They attempt to slant the opinion of the viewer, and to change the public's mind to conform with their viewpoint, rather than fairly and impartially report and portray events and stories.

The real danger, and this is exactly why the rules were put in place, is that control of the opinion outlets controls the power. This power should not be allowed to coalesce in the hands of only a few wealthy corporations...who are technically not the voting public...the public to whom the air-waves belong.

The ownership rules serve a very real purpose in preserving democracy and the right of both the popular and unpopular views to be heard. It is important that our history of free unfettered speech, and the ability to disseminate that speech, is preserved. You, sir, are trusted with its protection, and as our founding fathers, I expect you to stand in the way of the loss of free speech and the opportunity of its expression. Deny the proposed ownership rule changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Oates', written in a cursive style.

JAMES R. OATES

cc

*Sandra G. Stevenson
15880 Tonkawood Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345*

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MAY 13 2003

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Chairman Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

May 6, 2003

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you to express my very deep concern about allowing further consolidation of the media.
Continued consolnation of media will be the death of democracy in America.

News and entertainment media have already been far to greatly consolidated and the American people are at this time in serious jeopardy of having access to timely, complete news and a broad public dialogue. Even to consider allowing further consolidation is dangerous folly. The reasons are too numerous to recount, but here are just a few:

Control the media, control the message: 1) There is a clear disincentive for journalistic investigation into corporate fraud when the corporation pays the salary of the journalist. As we have discovered recently with the collapse of Enron, corporate fraud is not merely a paper problem – it severely hurts people. 2) Corporations give very large donations to political parties because they expect something in return. This “expectation” provides precious little incentive to investigate when an elected official is using public resources to replace the plumbing in his house, or receives a kickback from a grateful board of directors for supplanting public policy. 3) And finally, why would a media giant allow a story to air that might seriously injure the chances of re-election of a congressional senator who is friendly to the giant’s plans? **We must have a press that is free to report the truth, a press that is not hindered by corporate and political concerns.**

Absentee local media will never meet local needs: 1) Witness Minot North Dakota where a dangerous chemical spill could not be reported to the local population because the multi-national conglomerate which owns six of seven of Minor’s radio stations had fired almost all of the employees in order to consolidate operations. There was literally no one answering the urgent phone calls from public officials to air news about the spill. As a direct result of this corporate monopoly, people were seriously injured, livestock and pets were killed, private property was destroyed. This was not a unique event – circumstances like this will happen again, and again, and again. 2) Let’s take this real-life example a very small step further. When local media outlets are owned and operated by the same entity, who will provide more than one point of view? Surely even the most wildly optimistic can understand how dangerous it is for citizens of a democracy to have access to limited points of view.

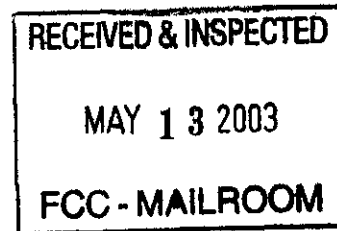
Unbiased, unfettered news reporting is essential to the public good and essential to a healthy, meaningful democracy. Impartial and adequate reporting is predicated on serving the public, not the corporate good, and will never occur when large multi-national giants control the message and the budgets. **I call upon the FCC to do it’s job to ensure that the public good is maintained in media by not allowing further consolidation of media resources. Continued consolnation of media will be the death of democracy in America.**

Sincerely,

Sandra G. Stevenson
Sandra G. Stevenson

c: Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman, Representative Jim Ramstad, Pioneer Press, Star Tribune

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MAY 2 1 2003
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary



May 5, 2003

Michael Copp
F.C.C.
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 27 2003
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Senator Copp,

We strongly support your critical efforts to prevent the public air waves from being monopolized by a few corporate-controlled interests.. Thank you for your valiant efforts which are part of the current struggle to preserve our democracy against the assault of the radical right wing of the Republican party.

Sincerely;

Dr. and Mrs. Neal Daniels
512 Woodland Terrace
Philadelphia, Pa, 19104

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

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May 8, 2003

Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

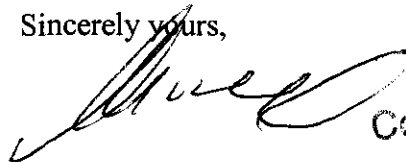
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Sincerely yours,



Stephen A. Little

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MAY 13 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

12 Riverside Court
Berlin, MD 21811
May 7, 2003

Commissioner Kevin Martin
FCC
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Please Do Not Relax Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Commissioner Martin:

We are writing to ask that you not relax broadcast ownership rules.

The proposed new rules would permit a few large corporations to exert much greater control on the media, and thus would reduce airing of divergent political views. Allowing a few corporations to control the media would abridge political speech in America, and therefore would not be in America's best interest.

Sincerely,

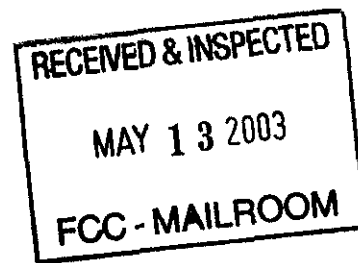
Carl Johnson
Barbara Johnson

Carl and Barbara Johnson

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center



The Honorable Michael J. Copps
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Copps:

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect us American citizens
I believe it would be bad for our Democracy to allow large corporations to become
media monopolies.

Sincerely,

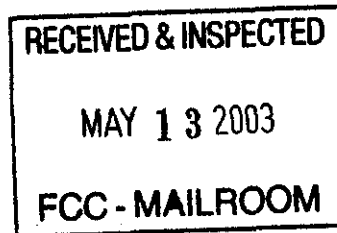
Roy R. Jensen

Roy R. Jensen
1617 - A South Cleveland Avenue
Sioux Falls SD 57103-8505

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MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center



The Honorable Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner, FCC
445 Twelfth Street
Washington, DC 20554

May 6, 2003

Re: Broadcast Ownership Rules

Dear Madam;

I cannot believe that a proposal to allow combining broadcast companies is being seriously considered. There are far too many large, almost monopolistic, broadcast companies in this nation at this time. We need more diversification, not larger media conglomerates.

Any claims as to better programming and the like are obviously sheer, utter nonsense. Money and control are the issues here. Period.

I seriously request that you rule for the general population, not for those few people who stand to get richer from this most un-exceptional approach. The media is currently monopolized by a few who do not necessarily report factually, to say the least.

The Commission is supposed to work for the general population, who pay their expenses, by the way. Please rule for the people and not the money grubbers who are rich enough as it as.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alden L. Head".

Alden L. Head
123 Forest Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057

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MAY 16 2003
Distribution Center

A rectangular stamp with a double border. The text is arranged in three lines: "Confirmed" at the top, "MAY 16 2003" in the middle, and "Distribution Center" at the bottom.



Central Labor Council of Alameda County

AFL-CIO

7992 Capwell Drive
Oakland, California 94621

E-mail: mail@alamedalabor.org
Website: www.alamedalabor.org

Telephone (510) 632-4242
Fax (510) 632-3993

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MAY 13 2003

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May 7, 2003

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER
JUDITH M. GOFF

PRESIDENT

DOROTHY FORTIER, IBEW 1245

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

LARRY HENDEL, SEIU 790

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

CHUCK MACK, IBT 70

SECRETARY TREASURER EMERITUS

OWEN A. MARRON

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RICHARD BENSON, UFCW 870

JUDY BODENHAUSEN, AFT 1078

ANTONIO CHRISTIAN, IBT 853

DAVE CONNOLLY, SUP

DON CROSATTO, IAM 1546

TOM CSEKEY, SEIU 1877

JIM DUPONT, HERE 2850

TIM HAMANN, UFCW 120

BILL HARVEY, CWA 9415

CAROL ISEN, IFPTE 21

FRAN JEFFERSON, SEIU 616

DAVID KRAMER, SEIU 535

BARRY LUBOVSKI, BLDG. TRADES

MARLAYNE MORGAN, IFPTE 20

RON PAREDES, IBT 78

JAMES PROLA, AFSCME 2019

PAT SANCHEZ, OPEIU 29

STEVE SCHIESSER, AFT 771

RICHARD SIERRAS, ILWU 6

JOE SILVA, IBT 70

CLARENCE THOMAS, ILWU 10

OBRAV VAN BUREN, PLUMBERS 342

BRENDA WOOD, AFSCME DC 57

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

DAN RUSH, UFCW 120

TRUSTEES

JIM LIGGINS, UFCW 870

BILL SCHECTER, IAM 1546

PEGGY TURNER, IFPTE 20

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Resolution in Support of Diversity in Media Ownership

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

On behalf of the 137 affiliated unions and 125,000 working families of the Central Labor Council of Alameda County AFL-CIO, it is my pleasure to let you know that our council has adopted the enclosed resolution.

We respectfully hope that you consider support of this issue.

Sincerely,

Judy Goff,
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

JG:ac
opeiu:29/afl-cio

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
~~Commissioner Kevin J. Martin~~
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



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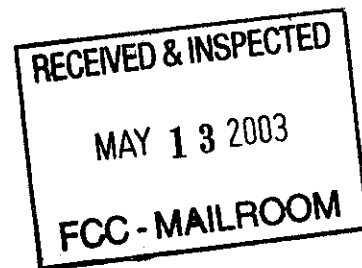
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May 7, 2003



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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
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cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
~~Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein~~

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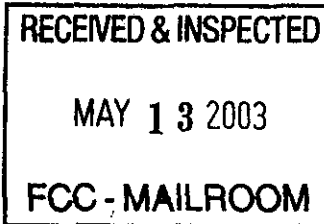
MAY 16 2003

Distribution Center

EX ROUTE OR LATE FILED

May 7, 2003

The Honorable Michael J. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554



Dear Mr. Chairman

The pending ruling by the FCC, on the number of media outlets in a given locality that may be owned by one company, may determine whether or not the United States continues to be a thriving democracy.

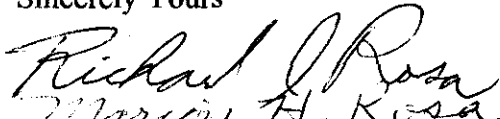
Without a free flow of information a democracy cannot function, and in order to avoid being biased by the interests of any one individual or any one group or any one class, information must come from multiple sources. Arguments based on "efficiency" or "cost reduction" must not determine the outcome of this decision.

Democracy is not efficient. Democracy, in words attributed, I believe to Sir Winston Churchill, "is the worst possible form of government except for all others!" Democracy often takes time, and often wastes money. But because it allows individuals in the USA access to a multitude of sources of information and allows them to make decisions, and act upon those decisions, the USA is the richest, most powerful, and most innovative nation the world has ever known.

Incidentally, the lack of just these things is the reason for the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union. This I know from first hand experience having, in the course of my work, made numerous trips to that Nation.

Consolidation in a number of industries and businesses has already proceeded to an extent that should worry us all. For the sake of our future and the future of our children, and of our children's children, we must not allow our industries, businesses, and sources of information to even begin to slip into the hands of just a few individuals or groups or classes.

Sincerely Yours


Richard J. and Marion H. Rosa
310 Clearview Drive
Polson, MT 59860-9378

Confirmed

MAY 16 2003

Cc: Commisioners Abernathy, Adelstein, Copps, and Martin

Distribution Center

May 7, 2003

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445 12th Street NW
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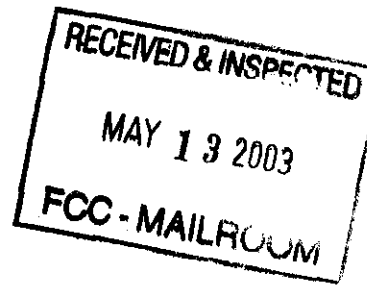
Richard J. and Marion H. Rosa
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Polson, MT 59860-9378

Cc: Commisioners Abernathy, Adelstein, Copps, and Martin

RUTH E. HANSEN

7345 PERRY LANE
LUSBY, MD. 20657
e-mail ctutor@chesapeake.net

EX PAYEE OR LATE FILED



May 7, 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner, FCC
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 205541

Confirmed
MAY 16 2003
Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Martin,

This is to express my concern over the pressure that is being put on the Federal Communications Commission to make changes in the rules that prohibit monopoly ownership of media sources.

To allow huge conglomerates to control what you and I and all Americans can see on TV, read in newspapers or hear on radio is more than a little bit frightening. In my wildest imagination I can't see how you and your Commission could allow this to happen. That is not what America is all about.

I sincerely hope that you will represent we average Americans who are not rich and powerful and not bow to the groups that would like to control what you and I can see and hear.

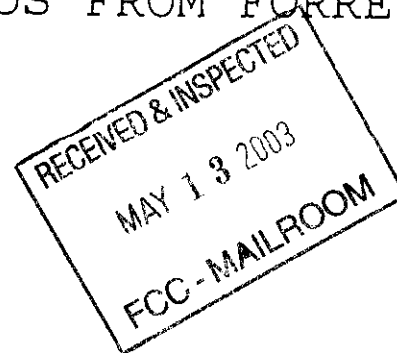
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth E. Hansen".
Ruth E. Hansen

FORREST GESSWEIN
9514 POWDERHORN LN.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21234-1030
410-668-7890



A FEW WORDS FROM FORREST



Michael K. Powell
Chairman of The FCC
445 Twelfth St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

What better example is needed; for making the forthcoming FCC decision, than the recent Wall Street Scandal? The excessive collusion practiced by the bankers, brokers, analyst and accountants has all but destroyed the faith in our market. The penalty doled out by our regulators was a pittance, and the silence of the media, with a few exceptions, was defining.

Yours truly,

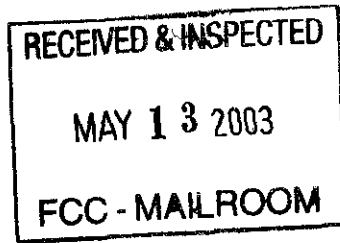
Forrest Gesswein

Copy, F.F.G Jr.

Confirmed

MAY 13 2003

Distribution Center



17 Longfellow Rd.
Needham, MA 02494-1105

May 6, 2003

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
4455 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

Do not weaken the rules concerning media ownership. We need a wide variety of viewpoints from many news-gathering organizations to be informed citizens and wise voters in a democracy. The media is already too consolidated and any further steps in that direction will be decidedly un-American.

Yours truly,

Caroline and Albert Jacobson

Confirmed

MAY 13 2003

Distribution Center

To: Chairman Michael Powell and Members of the FCC

From: Florence Raymond
27001 Plum Street
Perris, CA. 92570

May 9, 2003

Subject: FURTHER DEREGULATION

Dear Sirs:

I am greatly disturbed at the thought of relaxing (further!) the restrictions on the number of radio stations, TV channels, and/or newspapers any one corporation can own -- and thereby control!

The situation is already alarmingly out of balance.

I urge all of you to do everything in your power to undo the proposal toward further deregulation that is coming up for a vote in June.

It is certainly not in the best interest of the public to have a corporate mega media!

The airways belong to the public, and we must keep it that way.

Even now, the situation is out of control. There are already too few restrictions on the conglomerates who can program our minds, and too many restrictions on public access to information.

I am 77 years old and I have never felt such fear for the loss of the freedoms we so value in this country!

(Actually, for many of our citizens those freedoms have always been elusive, but at least there has been the promise of better days to come. Now I am afraid the better days may already have eluded us.)

I urge you to do all in your power to deny any further deregulation!

Respectfully,

Florence Raymond

Confirmed
MAY 13 2003
Distribution Center

=== COVER PAGE ===

TO: _____

FAX: 12024180710

FROM: FRED BEHNKEN

FAX: 9156843776

TEL: 9156843776

COMMENT: CONFIDENTIAL

Confirmed

MAY 13 2003

Distribution Center

Fred H. Behnken
2510 - Neely Ave
Midland, TX 79705
Tele/Fax 684-3776

To: Chairman, M. K. Powell, FCC Fax: (202) - 418-0710

From: Fred Behnken

Date: 5/13/2003

Re: Regulation Changes

Pages: 1

CC:

☒ Urgent

☐ For Review

☐ Please Comment

☐ Please Reply

☐ Please Recycle

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule changes that would raise the ownership limit from 35% to 45%. I am also adamantly opposed to the rules that would permit the same corporation to own both the radio/TV and newspaper in a city. These different media now serve as an effective check and balance to one another.

Why is it when two large oil companies merge that they are often forced to divest themselves of portions of the new entity to prevent a local or regional monopoly on retail outlets? Shouldn't the same restraint be true for control of the airwaves?

I think our time tested and true diversity of opinion, view points and checks and balances are already out of kilter by concentration of station ownership by a few large corporations.

Business can make the case for greater "efficiencies" by adopting the proposed rule changes, but the charge to your committee is not to serve the business interests, but to serve the interests of the general public. Station consolidation and different media ownership does not serve the public interest. If owned by the same corporation the radio/TV and newspaper would have the same news staff. In terms of corporate "harmony" they would never conflict or contradict one another.

Citizens deserve your support to NOT ADOPT the proposed changes that will be of significant benefit to large corporations and will diminish the independent communications spirit that is crucial to maintaining our democratic values.

Thank your.

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken
2510 -- Neely Ave
Midland, TX 79705
Tele/Fax 684-3776

To: Commissioner K. Q. Fax: (202) -- 418-0710
Abernathy, FCC

From: Fred Behnken Date: 5/13/2003

Re: Regulation Changes Pages: 1

CC:

☒ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Dear Commissioner Abernathy,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule changes that would raise the current limits on ownership from 35% to 45%. I am also adamantly opposed to any changes in the rules that would permit the same corporation to own both the radio and newspaper in a city. These different media now serve as an effective check and balance to one another.

Why is it that when two large oil companies merge that they are often forced to divest portions of the new entity to prevent a local or regional media outlet? Shouldn't the same restraint be true for control of the airwaves?

I think the true diversity of opinion, view points and checks and balances are already out of kilter by concentration of station ownership by a few large corporations.

Business can make the case for greater "efficiencies" by adopting the proposed rule changes, but the charge to your committee is not to serve the business interests, but to serve the interests of the general public. Station consolidation and different media ownership does not serve the public interest. If owned by the same corporation the radio/TV and newspaper would have the same news staff. In terms of corporate "harmony" they would never conflict or contradict one another.

Citizens deserve your support to NOT ADOPT the proposed changes that will be of significant benefit to large corporations and will diminish the independent communications spirit that is crucial to maintaining our democratic values.

Thank your.

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken
2510 - Neely Ave
Midland, TX 79705
Tele/Fax 684-3776

To: Commissioner J.S. Adelstein, FCC Fax: (202) - 418-0710

From: Fred Behnken Date: 5/13/2003

Re: Regulation Changes Pages: 1

CC:

☒ Urgent

☐ For Review

☐ Please Comment

☐ Please Reply

☐ Please Recycle

Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule changes that would raise the current limits on ownership from 35% to 45%. I am also adamantly opposed to any changes in the rules that would permit the same corporation to own both the radio and newspaper in a city. These different media now serve as an effective check and balance to one another.

When two large oil companies merge that the they are often forced to give up portions of the new entity to prevent a local or regional monopoly of oil outlets? Shouldn't the same restraint be true for control of the airwaves and other news outlets?

I think the true tested and true diversity of opinion, view points, checks and balance is already out of kilter by concentration of station ownership by a few large corporations.

Will you act in the best interest of individual communities and citizens by stopping this erosion of diversity and differing opinion? I hope that you do have the courage to act in our best interests and not that of higher profits for the corporate world through the homogenization of our airwaves and even newspapers.

Business can make the case for greater "efficiencies" by adopting the proposed rule changes, but the charge to your committee is not to serve the business interests, but to serve the interests of the general public. Station consolidation and different media ownership does not serve the public's best interest. If owned by the same corporation, the radio/TV and newspaper would have the same news staff. In terms of corporate "harmony" they would never conflict or contradict one another.

Citizens deserve your support to NOT ADOPT the proposed changes that will be of significant benefit to large corporations and will diminish the independent communications spirit that is crucial to maintaining our democratic values.

Thank you.

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken
2510 - Neely Ave
Midland, TX 79705
Tele/Fax 684-3776

To: Commissioner K.J. Marin, FCC Fax: (202) - 418-0710

From: Fred Behnken

Date: 5/13/2003

Re: Regulation Changes

Pages: 1

CC:

☒ Urgent

☐ For Review

☐ Please Comment

☐ Please Reply

☐ Please Recycle

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule changes that would raise the current limits on radio/TV ownership from 35% to 45%. I am also adamantly opposed to any changes in the rules that would permit the same corporation to own both the radio/TV and newspaper in a city. These different media now serve as an effective check and balance to one another.

Why would two large oil companies merge that they are often forced to give up portions of the new entity to prevent a local or regional monopoly in oil outlets? Shouldn't the same restraint be true for control of the airwaves and other news outlets?

I think we have tested and true diversity of opinion, view points, checks and balance are already out of kilter by concentration of station ownership by a few large corporations.

Will you act in the best interest of individual communities and citizens by stopping this erosion of diversity and differing opinion? I hope that you do have the courage to act in our best interests and not that of higher profits for the corporate world through the homogenization of our airwaves and even newspapers.

Business can make the case for greater "efficiencies" by adopting the proposed rule changes, but the charge to your committee is not to serve the business interests, but to serve the interests of the general public. Station consolidation and different media ownership does not serve the public's best interest. If owned by the same corporation, the radio/TV and newspaper would have the same news staff. In terms of corporate "harmony" they would never conflict or contradict one another.

Citizens deserve your support to NOT ADOPT the proposed changes that will be of significant benefit to large corporations and will diminish the independent communications spirit that is crucial to maintaining our democratic values.

Thank you.

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken
2510 - Neely Ave
Midland, TX 79705
Tele/Fax 684-3776

To: Commissioner M. J. Copps,
FCC

Fax: (202) - 418-0710

From: Fred Behnken

Date: 5/13/2003

Re: Regulation Changes

Pages: 1

CC:

☒ Urgent

☐ For Review

☐ Please Comment

☐ Please Reply

☐ Please Recycle

Dear Commissioner Copps,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule changes that would raise the current limits on ownership from 35% to 45%. I am also adamantly opposed to any changes in the rules that would permit the same corporation to own both the radio and newspaper in a city. These different media now serve as an effective check and balance to one another.

When two large oil companies merge that they are often forced to give up portions of the new entity to prevent a local or regional monopoly in oil outlets? Shouldn't the same restraint be true for control of the airwaves?

I think the true tested and true diversity of opinion, view points and checks and balances are already out of kilter by concentration of station ownership by a few large corporations.

Will you act in the best interest of individual communities and citizens by stopping this erosion of diversity and differing opinion? I hope that you do have the courage to act in our best interests and not that of higher profits for the corporate world through the homogenization of our airwaves and even newspapers.

Business can make the case for greater "efficiencies" by adopting the proposed rule changes, but the charge to your committee is not to serve the business interests, but to serve the interests of the general public. Station consolidation and different media ownership does not serve the public interest. If owned by the same corporation the radio/TV and newspaper would have the same news staff. In terms of corporate "harmony" they would never conflict or contradict one another.

Citizens deserve your support to NOT ADOPT the proposed changes that will be of significant benefit to large corporations and will diminish the independent communications spirit that is crucial to maintaining our democratic values.

Thank your.

Fred H. Behnken

Fred H. Behnken